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THE LIFE,
APPREHENSIO
Arraignment, and Execution of CHAR-
COVRTNEY, alias *Hollice*, alias *Worsley*, and
Clement Sise Fencer: with their Escapes and
Breaking of Prison:

As also

the true and hearty Repentance of *Charles Courtney* w/
other passages, worthy the note and Reading.

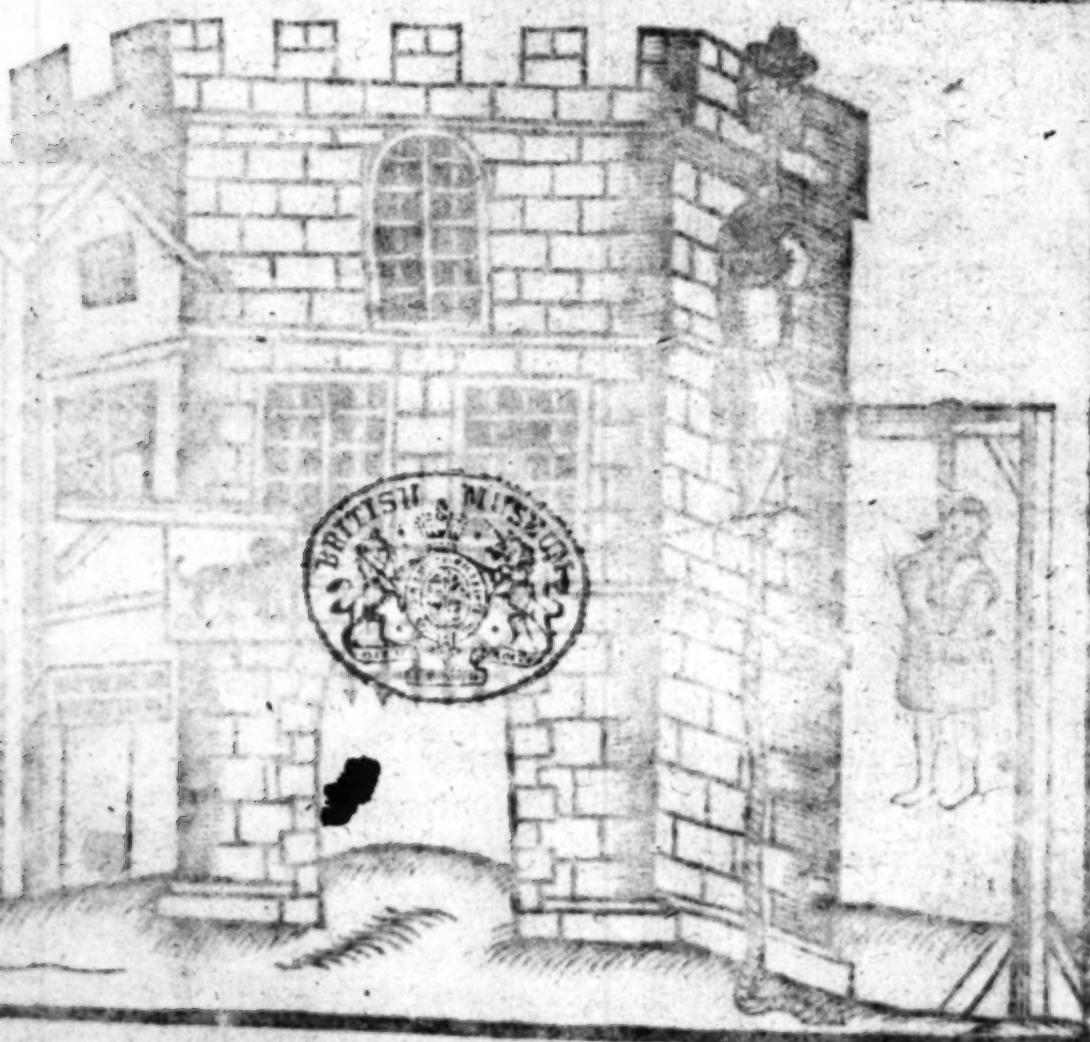


LONDON

Printed for Edward Merchant, and are to bee sold in Pa-
Churcyeard ouer against the Crosse. 1612.

THE LIFE
APRIL 1810
Anecdotes and Excerpts of CHAR-
COARTNEY, His House, His Neighbors,
Cousins, &c. &c. with some Pictures and
Brisking Offices:

No. 10



LONDON

Printed for E. CHAPMAN, and the Office of the
British Museum, 1810.



THE APPREHEN-
SION AND ARRAIGNMENT
of CHARLES COVRTNEY, alias
*Hallice, gentleman, with the
forms of his Life.*



¶, that as in a glasse, will be-
hold the picture of a wretched
Life, or the lively representati-
on of the mysteries incident to
Mankind, the image of both
may be seene in this man: here
may be discerned, the mutati-
ons of Fortunes, the inconstan-
cie of things, and the uncertaintie of daies, since sinne
hath spred it selfe like a leprosie over all flesh, and ini-
quite hath so gotten the upper hand, that a spider
is able to choake vs, a haire to stille vs, and a tyre fal-
ling on our heads to extinguishe vs, even in that momēt,
when we least suspect so suddaine a calamitie.

Our life then so momentanie, that in that minute
we breath (if not defended by our Maker) in that mi-
nute we are breathlesse. Whyle should any flesh, endow-
ed with that heavenly reason, which God hath onely
given to men and Angels, so forget his uncertaintie
as for a little gold, which is but the drayges of the
earth, for vanitie, the pleasures of the world, or for the
world it selfe; possesse with an exterioꝝ appearance of
goodnesse, and within lined with loathsome corruption,
which is but like to vices, who when they shoot out

2 The Arraignement and Execution

first, in the spring of the yeare, intice, and with their
fresh greene colour, delight the eye for a while; but if we
breake, and looke within them, we find nothing but
emptinesse and hallowness) neglect his Maker, and the
dignity of his creation, who being ordained for vertu-
ous dispositions, conducts his whole life to vitiouse acti-
ons; bearing men but in shew, and like birds in their
course, who greedily flee to pecke up corne, till they bee
caught in the ginne: or like fishes, who earnestly
swimme to catch the balle, till they be choaked with the
ooke.

But why doe I talke of the scensse of others, when
no mans madnesse hath bane equall to mine: or who
will receive a homely counsel from that tongue, whose
folly hath brought him to be condemned himselfe?

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

Then let me forget the world, pittie her infirmities,
and with my soules sorrow, and heartie repentance,
builde me vp a ladder, on the steppes of whose petitions
I might climbe toward heaven. Yet alas words bite-
red from mee, are but like birds feathers, who serue
their boodes vse to flicke withall, whilst they are aliue,
and others regardlesse lie downe vpon them, when
they are dead. The repetition of my sinnes, is but with
the winnower and the wind, to fanne away the chaffe,
and leade the growthy of the graine to liue: with my
shame, I may say, I haue sinned, and doe sing I repent,
yet the Law must haue his power, and the living giue
their verdict: my griefe is the sp̄ing, which my sorow-
lets out, and Justice is the pipe, which both take, and
can stoppe, whilſt the world, as a sputte that suckes vp
the superfluous, is of power to be squeeze forth, as the
multitude please: what though I sigh, yet my sinnes
must be stracke, the Law requires it, and mine iniqui-
ties haue deserued it: what though I dying complaine,
the living must haue their wills, and they haue wills
can rep̄me þoþat soever I say (then since the Law, as
from

so y fountaine of my offences, hath had power to draw
my life from me, and the world, even after death, may
hane strength to condemne me; Woods uttered with
teares, but requests of them thus: That since my body
Shall have power to blunt the edge of affliction, my ban-
tuned fayl may hane force to abate the keene sharpnes
of their rumouring tonges; and if my thurstis or suspi-
cious spilen, either reproyng at my death, or remouing
my name, shall desire to be warande the whole web
of my life, he shall here behold the piece of my travails:
in reading which, I desire him to wash from his memo-
rie the stains of my name: here shall he reade my diur-
nall transgressions, which I request him to pardon, and
not to reprove (since no Curre is so cruell to bite the
dead:) here as in a Mirro, shall hee looke into my mis-
ties, hand-workes, my sinnes, my sorrow, my life, my
death, and the building of mine owne labour, began
from the time of my apprehension at Donstable in Bed-
fordsire, from whence I was conuaid to Bedford
Gaole, from thence to Newgate, where, after my several
escapes, it was most untimely concluded at Warwick
lane end, neare Newgate to die. From my birth and edu-
cation, it was fortunate, and commendable. It was a
credit to my carefull and loving Father, and he was ob-
eyed by me, as a dutifull sonne. In my youth I grew
up like a straight plant, and was expectet of the mo-
thirst, and hoped for of the best of my countrey, to have
pruned the Timber of a fruitfull tree: my company to
the best of the Gentrie was accounted to welcom, that
they esteemed me more for pleasure, then expences; and
the contempt I held to a sociate with the base, had
brought my faire demeanour to bee beloved. With the
best, that my fellowship entirly desirous, and my condi-
tion held honest, my Father was pround to call me his
happy sonne. In my prime, and fittynge yeares, my Fa-
ther endeauoured to ioyn me in mariage, as well to
joy in the posterite of his sonne, as a wife by bringing a

4 The Arraignment and Execution

dwelle with her, shoulde strengthen my estate; which
desire of his, was equalled by divers Gentleman of
godes worship in our Countrey: and to mine owne loue
and liking, with the ioy and iustes of our Parents, I
was ioyned in wedlocke with a vertuous Gentlewoman;
with whom, during the liues of our fathers, whose eyes were like carefull sentinels, warefull of
our safeties, g̃ lived decently and orderly, as did befit a
sonne, and a husband, and shre loving and dutifull, as
should a daughter and a wife. But Time, the parent
of Death, and finisher of all things, calling them out
Poutishers to their granes, and I entred the gappe of
wilfulness, and libertie; the which, before either their
grave discretions had rained me from, or I had not
leisure to find out: I grewe now to be a wroser man,
and did not seeme in any thing, like that which before
I had bee: my civilitie was turned to disorder, my
temperance to drunkeynesse, my thirst to ryot, my ho-
nestie to misbehaviour; and my whole life to those vn-
seemely acts, that I should blush to record.

In which tide of expences, consuming my meaneſſe
reserved by my Parents to defend my reputation, and
upholde our house, want, the Enemie to supersticie,
Tawerns, Dyce, and whores came on like a greedy
purſuant to arrest me, with whose gripe I beeing
toucht, and finding my ſtate ſo infieble, that I
could not continue in the courſe I had begun: my
undertakings greſe despetate, feareleſſe to attempt,
and careleſſe of the heaþongh danger that could
enſue. To rob I was reſolved, not fearing the law,
and to perſiſt I grewe bold, not regarding my ruine.
To retken ſpight on all the roberies I haue done,
were but to add graueſe to a number, that ſhould hear
of the attempt, and little benefit to me, that am going
to my grave. As many they are, which particularly to
exprefſe would beget doubt to the Readers beſteſſe,
yet thus much Reader for thy ſatisfaction, I haue
done.

beene too prosperous in these Adventures, so that I never failed in any purchase I went about, I never stood upon the way to watch for any passengers, nor never undertooke any Robberie, but what was appointed and certaine notices given vs which way they would passe, and what sorte of Coyne they carried, by some who were trusted, more then mistrusted. I never tooke from the needy, or those whose pouertie might cause them to complaine, but all my aime either at house or highway, were at such Curmuggions, who care not who starues so themselves bee Corne fed.

In the effecting of all my Robberies and Burglaries, never (to my soules Comfort) did I shed any blood, but still my care was how to prevent that stayne to my soule, onely it was my ill fate to stumble upon one Robberie, for which I heartily wish I had beene taken and received the law, according to my deserts, I had then prevented the untimely end of two worthie gentlemen, whose names I forbearce. For the reputation of their house that were apprehended, enbited, arraigned, condemned, iudged and most innocently hanged for a Robbery which I did, Oh that my cradle had beene my graue, I had not then offended my maker. For the blood of the Innocents, for which I doe sit most earnestly on the knees of my heart begge forgiuenesse of the Lord, hoping through my unsatned and harty repentance to obtaine remission of that grieuous sin, next of those friends, which were by me madz friendlesse of two hopefull gentlemen, which in time might haue prouned fruitfull vines to defend their posteritie, yet thus much Reader for thy satisfaction, these gentlemen were apprehended, iudged and dead ere I knew of it, for I protest (as I thinke) had I known thereof before their execution, I shoulde haue periled my owne life, and haue thought it chiefe meanes to obtaine remission of God, for my manifold transgressions to save the Innocents. This warning
peece

þere should haue Chastised me, for euer undertaking the like Enterprise.

My Conscience for the time was greened, complayned on it, yet my wilfullnesse regarded it not, but like a Dog, Redit ad vomitum, I was still the same and persisted. Insomuch, that my conscience being Clogged with the bloud of Innocents, I rettred my selfe for resce in London.

In which Denne of acquaintance, I met with many, who had bee my Consorts, with whom we Revelled, while we had money, drancke while we had Credit, whored whilst we had health, regardles of any good wee applied our selves to all villanies whatsover, but these being weake sinewes to maintaine strength without supplie, and none of vs all having meanes to reliue himselfe, in the woorl of our Credit, we began to Consult, our Resolute was thus, he that is borne must be kept, we are borne and therefore must be kept, & will find Purles in the wold though to other mens charge. Briefly we stood not long upon it, but our Conference was, how we might come by a Purse on the highway, that was worth the taking, or enter some house that might benefit the breaking. Every man gaue his Resolute, some that the highway was the best, hauing Dcklers ready to furnish them with horses, and euerie Countrie in the whole Kingdome for their free escape. Others knowing me a better thaire then the rest, swoze they would be ruled by me, and desired me to set downe some Course what shold be done, I neuer paused on it, but finding them all fit Fry for the galloves as my selfe was, I desired to bee heard, and told them this, that there was a Gardner in the towne that sowed seede, and gathered the Croppe for himselfe. A man, an usurer, one that would take much in paune, and lend littel on it. One that would keepe a house of great vse, yet haue no hospitalitie in it, neere about Temple Barre was this Gardners Dychard: One

whose

whose fratre we must plucke for our profit, the course
was likte, the Plot approued, and my selfe best know-
ing the conueyance of the house, hauing oftentimes re-
sorted thither, when my Pockets were Lancke, both to
pleasure my selfe, and other of my friends with a good
Pledge, I must be the man to bring the matter to Act.
Two seuerall times we had vnderooke this Enter-
prise, and were as often preuented, entending to breaue
into the house, but finding the house too strong for our
weake purposes, hopeless to effect, we were about to
gine it ouer, till on the sudden, it came in my minde
that this Gardner, was so ielous of his substance, and
so distrustfull of every one (nay even of his wife) her
selfe, that he would never goe abroad, but he would
take his keye of his doore with him, referring to him-
selfe certaine houres in the day, when he would not
faile to be at home, to meeke with his customers, and
to furnish them with money. So that some Certaine
meanes must be found out for the getting of his keye,
or all our Labour was lost, and we had vnderooke a
bootelss attempt. In breife I hauing by this time so
infuinated my selfe into his loue by faire words,
and as faire behauour, that no man was more wel-
comer to his house then my selfe, neither could any
draw him forth sinner then I : Will baiting the booke
of my plot, with bestowing euery morning a pinte
of wine or two on him, as they vse to say, for his first
drast, but never sufferinge him to spend a Penie, as
we sate babling together oftentimes, thus hand to hand
turning ouer the Cuppes, with no other Complement
then this, here saher Gardner, heeres to you, and
sonne Courtney to you. I warrant you an oath siew
not out of my mouth for the world, and Circumstance
was seldeane of any thing else but of drast, and drast
vning, how we might get wealth and hoode it vp, being
got, I knew now that buttermilke would serue in sum-
mer both for meat and drinke, as well as himselfe,
that-

that a god sauor might stand Cheeks by Iole with a great getter, and could now tell how to multiply a hundred to a thousand, with the best of them all, so that I stood in doubt at last he would make me his heire.

Our familiaritie thus linckte, and the rest of our Crew being nine or tenne in number, acquainted therewith, it was by generall Consent agreed vpon that at some Tauerne or other, a solemne supper should be prepared, and M. Gardner and his wife invited and brought thither as my guests. I stood not much vpon the undertaking of it, and the rather, because I knew good cheare, and of free Cost, was both baits and line, and would draw my Gudgeon at ease. The time is come, supper ready, the Cloath is laid, my gallants in the room attending for M. Gardner his wife, and my selfe, who at the houre appointed, made our appearance, when according to Course, to some that were there before, and the worthiest in shew, I must entreate of them to bid these friends welcome, who are especially mine, and what Curtesie soever they extenuated towards them, I should ever approue it manifested towards me, whereby the god woman is with al Curtesies placed at the upper end of the Table, and a chaire with a soft Cushion, provided for the good man, every one is ready to carue vnto her, and all are as forward to quaffe vnto him.

Supper ended and the signe of the wine beganne to shew in his face, a noise of fiddlers was provided to come in, iust in the Riche, and now in the Devils name, we must needs goe daunce, when in protestynge of Loue, imbracing and hugging of him, one of the Crew whoseingers were nimbler then the rest, had daunced the key out of his pocket, Intelligenesse was straight given to me of that which was done, and by meas privately borne to the rest with strickt warning to kepe him vp in his mirth, so by his wealth we were in hope to beuer made.

About then slippe the healthes, more Joniall then before, whilst three of vs on the sudden sunke downe the stairs, hast to the house, open the doore, and vp into the Chambers, where we found that we came soz, and stode not long a Culling out, but like craftie Mar-chants, taking vp our Commodities by the great, we were now onely puzzled how, and in what, to Carry it from thence. But I being my Crafts-Master puld off a fetherbed, ript vp the ticks, poured out the feathers, and in this Case soz Conuincance, wee put as much plate and Jewels as wee could find, and conveniently carry away, Onely one bagge of monie of some thir-ty pound was scattered about the Roome, the bagge booke. It was not farre off but soz the instant we had a warehouse provided for the Harboiring of it. My Confederates all this while kept them at the taverne, excusing mine, and the others suddaine departure to some extraordinarie busynesse which wee had to doe. When they thought we had our purpose, call soz a reckoning, paid it, and so like honest, loving, familiar friends, wee quietly and peaceably departed the Tap-uerne.

By this, Master Gardner with his wife come home to their house, and their doore shut, there was no hort in that, bids his wife light a candle, there was no hort in that, but missing his key, was foiced to breake the doore open: comming vp into his chamber, espying the feathers scattered all about one roome, and money about another, the windows shut, and walles safe, (not without cause) my old friend began to wonder at that: and being suddenly affrighted, flies to his Counting-house, where, when he saw what ransache was made, what a pittifull heat was my olde Grandfie in, let e-very one iudge.

It was no time for him to delay, Enquiry was made amongst the neighbours, what passengers they had

had seene goo into his houſe ſince his deparſure, ſuſpi-
tion was had of vs; ſearch every where was made for
vs, Hūe and Crie into all places ſent after vs, all poſts
and haunſ laid for vs, our habitz and personages de-
ſcribed, warning left at all Gold Smithes and Jewell-
lers, if any ſuch plate came to be ſold, to make ſtay of it:
all Newgate Coniurers ſet a woſke, with promife of
great rewarde, if by their Art they could find any of vs
out. But we beeing lodged ſecure from preſent dan-
ger, begaſto conſult what meanes might be uſed for
our ſafe eſcape. Some were ſo fearefull (as it hath bin
ſtill my happe to robbē with cowards) that they would
haue giuen one legge, and their ſhares in the Robbery,
to haue had the other legge ſafe in France. I knew my
ſelue as ſafe here as in Francce, but aiming at the full
purchafe, holding it no ſinne to deceiu the deceivers,
peruaded them how dangerous it was to abide here,
and told them that I knew the malice of Gardner to be
ſuch nothing could ſatisfie him but life, or reſtitution:
This feare infected them all, & they that before thought
ſcorne of my company, now became ſuitorz to me, to
plot their eſcape. I conueyed them with ſped to an
old Sea-thiefe, an acquaintance of mine, which dwelt
nere the Sea coaſt, that woulde at any time for a ſmall
gratuitie, conney a fellow, or one in danger, out of this
land; told them he muſt haue a great rewarde for his
paſtneſs, and for the plate & jewelz, we woulde ſhare the
theres where her booke ſhippe: for I made them beléue
this Sea-thiefe was ſtill full of money, to furnish theſe
occasions. We beeing acquainted with my purpoſe,
peruaded them their ſecureſt harbour was on ſhip-
boord, till he coulde provide me money upon theſe
paſtneſſes. They beeing all ſhipt, one night I cauſed a
false alarme to be ſent, that they were purſued, my ſelfe
taken, the towne laid for their apprehenſion. This
neuer made them forget what they ſaid for prefet-
ting;

ring their lives before anything else, cried Poissayle,
away to France : the wind bearing then god, away they
went, and left me with my old Deatheife, revelling in
the towne. So all the plate and iuwels which we tooke
from Gardner, whiche amounted to a god round summe,
of which some nine or tenne shoulde haue share, I sha-
red to my selfe; onely soms money they got from mee,
nothing to their expectations, and some charge they put
me to, in sending them away.

Now haing conueyed them safe away, I must vs
a course to protect my selfe : I knew all places where it
was knowne I had any acquaintance, was laid so;
me, with promise of reward to them that could appre-
hend me : so that my safest refuge was where I was
least knowne. In one place I wold never abide long,
but coursing the countreyes, I happened to lodge at
Dunstable, where I was taken vpon suspition of Fe-
lonie, being knowne by my horse, was committed to
Bedford Gaole: and notice of my apprehension was
given vnto Gardner, who procured authoritie to fetch
me from Bedford to London. Whether I was safe-
ly, and with great care conveyed. And being brought
to Newgate, was lodged on the Masters side: where
my smooth tongue, ciuill carriage, and friendly courte-
sie (not onely to the worthiest and best esteemed on that
side, but even to the woorst boy in the house) had gotten
me such a god opinion amonst them, that I was of e-
very one beloved, and pittied: and every one behinde
my backe commended me to the Roper, and wold of-
ten produce me for example to others. But all this
was but a curtain to shadow my villanie: soz when I
serued freest from thought of wrong, I was most bu-
ffe to make my escape. My life, I knewe, was soz
fet to the Law, which at the next Sessions I was sure
to pay, unlesse it were ventured by breaking out of pris-
on. I found the Gaole to be of that approued

12 The Arraignment and Execution

Strength, as it was impossible to be broken: besides, being lodged in a chamber with other prisoners, I could not haue time to doe it. Yet still persisting in my Resolute, and taking hold of any occasion that might further my attempt, I did perceiue a doore which did leave out of a gentlemans chamber, that was a prisoner, into the Leades, which doore was continually lockt, this was the doore must leade me to my pardon, I let no time slippe, but by meanes of a deere friend, I had a Jacke line conueied vnto me, and a Chissell of Iron, and that night I purposed to get away, being in the Hall at supper, with the rest of the prisoners, I made excuse, to goe vp to my Chamber, to write a letter. To worke I went, where without long labour, as it seemed to me, being a cunning workeman, I had opened the doore that led into the Leades, and finding an olde doore in the gutter, on the backe of which were fastened barres to keepe close the boordes, and with the helps thereof, I climed vp to the Battlements, where my eye measuring the way that I held best for my descent, I fastened my cord to the toppe of one Battlement, on the wch side of the gate, and beganne to slide downe, but see the will of our iust God, that gives prevention to euill, for the prosperite of honest and good men, (which I now heartily pray for) that I that had the Contrivance to open the Lockes, the Cunning how to soyt out the lime, shoulde not for this which I held my aduantage, haue had the foresight to haue laid some cloath, or other helpe, betwixt the edge of the wall, whereunto I had fastened the cord, and the stay of the rope. So that in my slipping downe, striuing to vntangle the cord being small, it cut my right hand to the bone, and the force of my body, with the sharpeness of the stone cut in sunder the cord, by the breaking of which I fell downe into the gutter, belonging to a Linnen Draper adioyning to Newgate, lying a quart-

ter.

ter of an houre alonied ere I recovered my selfe.

Being come to my remembrance, and seeing my hope frustrate, and no brife soz mete to be gone, at last I croaped out a garret window, the doore of which opened into the gutter, but being boited in the inside, I was as much in a maze as I was before, where presently my invention helping me againe, and by the shaking of the doore, learnt wherabout the staple was fastened, I had in a trice with my nayles scraped out a hole, yet no bigger but where I might thrust two of my fingers, so thrusting backe the boult, I opened the gutter doore, having a cord about my middle, where with I ment to get out of the gutter into the streeete. But the maister keeper whose diligence, and care in his well governing of the Prison, I must with modestie commend, having bane forth with some friends of his, and comming in againe, at the time they vs to looke vp, demanded if the Gaole were safe, and all well with the Prisoners, and being answered yes, I knew not by what meanes, but sure God had a hand in it, having a strange impression on the sudden in his minde, came vp into the maisters roome, and the first he askt for was me, where receyning a strange answere from every one, as that he was here even now, or such like, going into every roome, still calling, still calling, Maister Courtney, Maister Courtney, but Maister Courtney could not heare. It was perfectly silent, I had wrought my escape. In what a conflict was this gentleman in, the danger I had wrought him in, let euен Charitic iudge. But it was no time for delay, search round about the house was made, whitch way I might escape, some perswaded him, I was gone out of the doore in some disguise, somethat I had got out at the leades, the leades were vieted, at last they found the cord tied about the Battlements Linkes then were sent for, the Cunstable and his watch beset every

12 The Arraignment and Execution

strength, as it was impossible to be broken: besides, being lodged in a chamber with other prisoners, I could not haue time to doe it. Yet still persisting in my Resolute, and taking hold of any occasion that might further my attempt, I did perceiue a doore which did leave out of a gentlemans chamber, that was a prisoner, into the Leades, which doore was continually lockt, this was the doore must leade me to my parson, I let no time slippe, but by meanes of a deere friend, I had a Jacke line conuiced vnto me, and a Chissell of Iron, and that night I purposed to get away, being in the Hall at supper, with the rest of the prisoners, I made excuse, to goe vp to my Chamber, to write a letter. To woorke I went, where without long labour, as it seemed to me, being a cunning workeman, I had opened the doore that led into the Leades, and finding an olde doore in the gutter, on the backe of which were fastened barres to keepe close the boordes, and with the helpe thereof, I climed vp to the Battlements, where my eye measuring the way that I held best for my discent, I fastened my cord to the toppe of one Battlement, on the west side of the gate, and beganne to slide downe, but see the will of our iust God, that gives prevention to euill, for the prosperitie of honest and good men, (which I now heartily pray for) that I that had the Contriving to open the Lockes, the Cunning how to soot out the lime, shold not for this which I held my aduantage, haue had the foresight to haue laid some cloath, or other helpe, betwixt the edge of the wall, whereunto I had fastened the cord, and the stay of the rope. So that in my slipping downe, straining to vntangle the cord being small, it cut my right hand to the bone, and the force of my body, with the sharpeness of the stone cut in sunder the cord, by the breaking of which I fell downe into the gutter, belonging to a Linnen Draper adioyning to Newgate, lyng a quarter

ter of an houre alonied, etc I recouered my selfe.

Being come to my remembraunce, and seeing my hope frustrate, and no helpe for me to be gone, at last I groped out a garret window, the doore of which opened into the gutter, bat being bolted in the inside, I was as much in a maze as I was before, where presently my invention helping me againe, and by the shaking of the doore, learnt wherabout the staple was fastened, I had in a trice with my nayles scraped out a hole, yet no bigger but where I might thrust two of my fingers, so thrusting backe the bolt, I opened the gutter doore, having a cord about my middle, where with I intent to get out of the gutter into the streeete. But the maister keeper whose diligence, and care in his well governing of the Prison, I must with modestie commend, having beene forth with some friends of his, and comming in againe, at the time they vs to locke vp, demanded if the Gaole were safe, and all well with the Prisoners, and being answered yes, I knew not by what meanes, but sure God had a hand in it, having a strange impression on the sudden in his minde, came vp into the maisters stoe, and the first he askt for was me, where receyving a strange answere from every one, as that he was here even now, or such like, going into every roome, Will calling, still calling, Maister Courtney, Maister Courtney, but Maister Courtney could not heare. It was perfectly talbent, I had wrought my escape. In what a conflict was this gentleman in, the danger I had brought him in, let euен Charitie judge. But it was no time for delay, search round about the house was made, whiche way I might escape, some perswaded him, I was gone out of the doore in some disguise, somethat I had got out at the leades, the leades were viewed, at last they found the cord tied about the Battlements. Linkes then were sent for, the Cunstable and his watch beset every

every house on that side, from Newgate to Pie Corner, the Leades were likewise beset with linches. All this I did see though to my great griefe, into the garret then I crept, and there hid my selfe under a table, couerted with a cloake, this Drapers house being searcht, as the likeliest place, I should take for my refuge, till the hurry was ouer. In the garret where I lay, they came, and found me not, but God would not suffer me to escape, nor would suffer them to glie ouer their searcht in that house. Into the garret the keeper came againe, with a cudgel in his hand turning vp the cloake, espied me lyng as it were a sleepe wakynge me without blowes or signe of anger, called to me, come Maister Courtney, will you goe, when looking heantly vp, and seeing it was he, I fell downe on my knees asking him forgiuenesse, who most mildly without afflicting me gaue me this answere, may never aske forgiuenesse of me, there is no hurt done Maister Courtney, for I am the gladdess to see you of any man alane.

So from thence being carried vp to the common Gaole, and sessions comming on, I was called vp to triall according to my merit. Convict, but by the fauour of the bench, same promises of mine owne to helpe same to their goods, who had bene rabbde of a number, and at the especiall suete of my friends, I was for that sessions represened without iudgement, the sessions following, I had my sentence of death, but in the distance betwixt my conviction and sentence, my remauns being still in the common Gaole. I had searching ries touching the strength of the prison, the condicition and humors of the officers, and where and what holwer it was fittest for me to labour my deliuernace, whose policie failing, I was certaine of death. In brefe I had found the way, and manner of my convuiance, and had I not bene prevented, by my vnderexpected sentence, at the following sessions after my conviction,

and

and that night according to the customs due to Condemned and Judged men, being lodged in a dungeon, which is called the Limbord, that instant night, with one Clement Slic a fencer by title, and lay condemned for Murther, whome I had wrought to bee an agent with me, I had him as soone as after I performed, confirmed by escape.

Now seeing I was presented, and knowing I must die with the rest of the prisoners, I found now there was no refuge left, but to labour out reprieve, which cunningly, and not ordinarily, I thus brought to effect, there was a gentleman, and at that time a prisoner for debt, whom I had understood his intreats would prevail with some honourable personages in this land, I commended me to him, to his conseruance with me, and in this manner solicited him, that I was a gentleman, as himself was, and for lacke of meane, and neglect of friends, compeld to take offending courses, the which himselfe knew the law had taken hold of, to the marke of my life I implored him to consider of me, yet in no kind whereby himselfe, whom I labour, should be brought into danger, neither those whom he should moare so; mee, shoule receive discredit but gaine.

From when I stode condemned, for this apparent robbery of Gardner, I desired him to be certaine, that I had ever this care in the euill of my life, not so to ouerthrow the state of my being, but in spight of calamitie, I would alwaies some what reserve, shoule be as a fence to my health, in spight of my ill, namely, that of the same I stand convicted for, being most of it in plate, I had at that time, as much, the which in one moneth I would make mony of, as shoulde amount to the summe of sixe hundred pounds, fourre of which I would assurte to any honourable or worshipfull friendes, whiche laboured my repaire, and either my person, and the

The Arraignment and Execution

the other hundred poundes shoulde be to gratifie him, that shoulde travell in the cause (since himselfe was a prisoner) till it were fully confirmed. And if within soute daies, after my repaire, I did not answeare my woorde, I would willingly yelde to my sentence of death.

This made my gentleman labour, this drew a friend of his to question with me, and was satisfied with my promise. So that the vntimely morning I was expected by the gaze of the multitude to haue gone to execution with the rest, I had my repaire brought in hope of my promise, which indeede was onely copyed for another ent.

The effect was this, that I being still continued in the Gaole, and night coming on, I began to argue with Slic of our former plot, whom I found to bee the man, whome I wished to be, namely to goe forward in the attempt, which before we had enterprised, whom I finding to be confident, and resolute still, that night we made a howl, to confirme our purpose.

It is heere to be noted, that in the same ward where we lay, namely the Maisters Chamber was also lodg'd one Woodward for suspect of Coyning, whom wee taking down into the seller, amongst other prisoners, we made so absolutely drunke, that hee was forced upon mens shoulters to be carried up staires, this fellow thus drunke, and we were sure now, in a dead sleepe, in the dead of the night, we fell to worke, and preuailed so farre that we came vp through a seeling, and a planke that was broken in a roome, that is comonely called the high hall, with a rope that bseth to drabup, and let downe the beere into the Taphouse, having bee bused, then time out of minde, and dreadlesse of that, by which we made use of it, we determined our escape. But being both abose, and out of the roome where we lay, all the policie and activitie wee had, could not clime vp to the beame, to unroose the house

house, whereby we were foyt to come before my selfe
to bed, but the next day, and noon there nights to-
gether, having conyned to haue a lass, and a barch
lent to me by a friend which was sent to me aforesaid
before his fownding, with certayne ditties, whiche we
had privily converred out of the kynges stables, we
made us a lass of yeres, with the rest of ditties
the saturday night following, being the last of Februarie
yeare, as before. Sly climbing up the steepe, holdynge
by helpe fastened the lass of stables, we came so gettyn-
gē up into the high Bell, got up to the roome, holding
the lass, we vntiled a hole in the toppe, whiche led into the
leades, and the same rope whiche we haue taken from the
pollicie, we fastened to the 15 Barrements, and so downe
and downe into the parke yard, and there by meaneys of
yderes, whiche we chayme we haue ther, holding
the stables, went holde learecke and, to the gentyl
Wiles, from thence into the parke, where we lay
in a hole, vpon shalfe all sommeryng, without any com-
panie. On sunday night, we were wakened by a knell
sent, vnto me, vnto a knell sent, vnto the knell,
to come into a gentlemans Chamber in the temple,
whiche we shold knoll by a light bouching in the knell
dewe, and by the same letter, we were directed the knell
whiche candle burnt there those nightes aforesaid, whiche shold
have done those nightes longer, if we had not come, to
whiche place we went on sunday night, and there with
others plotted to robbe a worshipfull gentleman at
Layton on monday night, but take swerd at the temple
stages, and landen at saint matthias, where we
spent our time, till the night following, and then wch
some fowrs or five more effected this Robberie, and re-
paired againe to the temple, where, by what meanes,
we were betrayed and taken, God knoweth best, for
we doe not, but I doe applie it the wroake of God to
cleare a great many, whiche were most vnitly accused,

soz

for consenting to our escape, of whom I doe aske par-
don, before we were taken the thriday night after our
escape, and from thence brought bound to Newgate,
where we remained till the day of our execution.

On Friday morning, being the thirtenth of this instant
month of March, I was sent to to Sir Henry
Mountegus in Aldergate streete, where being ex-
amined of some peynites concerning the Robbery done
at Layton, after a hoor or two's scracious examination made
unto me in prison, I saye, I ame out of life, & to speare
that little time I had to live, in priser. Now you are quarely
appointed to mostraw with your companiones, to
yeare your lives to the law, which so many waies you
have offended, and so sent me backe againe to New-
gate, where all that after name, I spent my time in
priser, being full frequente with others good & godly
men, who laboured zealouslie for the good of my soule,
and who I hope can rendre to the world, that I do
eare a true & honest servant of God. God to his mercie
grant unto all other offenders the like unfained commis-
on, and true feeling of your benefites, and unto me the
everlasting, Amen.

On Saturday morning was two gibbets set up, one
without the gate, near wattle lane end, whereon was
hanged Charles Courtney gentleman, one other halfe
bus syde gate at the olde Wall end, where on was hang-
ed Clement Slic a fencer, for killing a fencer here about
Kentish towne. The body of Charles Courtney,
was begd by the Barba Surgeons, for an anatomicie.
The body of Clement Slic was buried in Chars
Church, in Christian Burial.

¶¶¶¶¶

Courtneis penance.

The silent night that shadowed in every tree,
And Phœbus in the West was sorrowful low,
Each bine had borne her busie labouring bee,
And Birds their mighty harbour gan to know,
And all things did from weary labour linn,
And I began to weigh my state and sume.

Men morne with worke, beooke them to their rest,
The Sunne had left to shew his glorious beame,
Titan had fully bid him in the West, at shortly
To coole the fackles of his meary demayn,
When sunke west (or rain being captaine,) it
I shed forth teares lamenting much my rare.

My head on hand, my elbou on my knee,
And teares did tricke downe my countenance shewy
My countenance as sad, as mans might be,
My dumps besitting well a Captaine man,
Fettered in prison, passionate alone,
My sighes wrought teares, and thus I gan to mone.

I that of late did live a souldiers life,
And spent my service in my Countries good,
Nowe captive bin, whare nought but cares are rife,
Where is no hope, but loss of dearest blood,
This is befallen me, cause I did mis-spend,
That tyme which God to better use did lend.

Had I but stopt my eares where Syren sung,
And bound my selfe unto Nissimast,
Or had I thought, alas I am but young,
Too much tis all so venture com a cast,
I might have lived from all dangers free,
Wher now I die, for lise (not for me).

But

Courtneis repentance.

But I doe follow what I knew was vaine,
Instead of vertue, I did vice embrace,
My former pleasures now procure my paine,
And cause I lackt one sparkes of timely grace,
 I he poysoned Aconite of death and malice,
Resolues to send a fatal overthrowe and I brake,

This makes my eies to gush out floods of teares,
My flesh to melt, my eies and areris rend
My soule to seek redresse, to cure her feare,
For now my cause can not afford one friend,
 I that of late did number many a friend,
Now find them fled, and no man comfort lende.

The Leafelesse tree, with wrath of winters wind,
Hys representis my wretched wasting state,
Fortune the wind, she leaues my friends I find,
My selfe the tree, that thus am crost by fate,
 And yet in this we greatly differ may,
That it reniues and I still pine away.

Villaines avaunt, you bastards are by kind,
That doe perturbe the countries quiet state,
Shame to offend, shun a corrupted minde,
And learne by me, your former lines to hate,
 Lieue of your owne, and braue it not with brag,
Least law condemne you in your proudest rags.

Drinke not the Haruest of your neighbours sweat,
Steale not at all, thy God doth thee command
Whose law to keepe your soueraigne doth intreate,
I by health it is Gods lawe to understand,
 Obeying God, God shall all harmes prevent,
Keeping Kings peace, thy King is well content.

Courteis repentance.

Like to the Wolfe in every place you range,
Preying on Lambe, that never went astray,
And like Camelsons must your suits be strange,
Who doth by kind change Colours every day,
Without respect forgetting what you be,
Masking in sinne, as if God could not see.

Abate presumption, sinne is not a Iest,
Though God forbear, yet he will strike at length,
God made thee man, make not thy selfe a beast,
But feele to loue thy God, with soule and strength,
I'll gotte, I'll spent your hopes (in theft) pretended,
Are griefe and shame, and life in sorrowes ended.

Might sorrowing sobs, with teares redeeme whats past
Or floods of teares suffice for foredane illes,
Behold my lookes with discontent or cast,
Whose heart doth rend, whose eies fresh fountaines still,
And yet all this, and all that I can doe,
Is small so that which I haue neede to doe.

My soule shall mourne for all my ill done deedes,
And I will weepe, sole author of soules woe,
Repentance shall be my blacke mourning weedes,
I le bath my selfe in teares, from top to toe,
And while life lastes, which cannot now be long,
Grant mercie Lord, this shall be all my song.

My heart through flesh shall issue sweating griefe,
And scald me, bones with salt and brinish teares,
Through flesh and bone, my heart shall begger chief,
On bended knees till bone my flesh out-wearcs,
All that I am I le spend in mourne for sinne,
And where I end, afresh I will beginne.

Courtneis Repentance.

If Manalins teares did ever Christ's face wet,
And sweete her soule with true repentant teares.
If Peters mourning streames did mercy get
For all his sinnes, though he his Christ forswearcs,
My sad lamentes abounding from my vice,
Sweete God accept, and heare my mournefull cries.

A wounded soule a broken contrite heart,
Creepes in great st throng, thy mercies throne to touch,
The oyle of life, King of my life import,
Though sinne be great, thy mercy's thrice as much
Oh thou that art in power and mercy great,
Send downe thy mercy from thy mercies seat.

My coloured fuit's I now exchange for blacke,
Till Scarlet sinne be all as white as snow,
On me sweete time shall never turne his backe,
Nor shall his taske be more, my tares to mow,
But with repentaunce furrow hopes forlorny,
Till God gine grace, I shalfe a up better Corne.

This little remenant of my life so poore,
I le teach to shun all sinne and vices all,
Giver of all grace, grant grace I sinne nomore,
Establish me that I may never fall,
To thee my heart, my soule and life I give hym
Wher after death eternally may lye

Direct my path evn for thy mercies sake,
Guide thou my steppes to keep reverant ways,
Keep me from sleepe in thac stille let me wake
To laud thy name during these earthly daze,
And when from earth I shal dissolve to dust,
Grant that my soule may lye among the iust.

FINIS. Ch. Courtney.



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